

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00

COME-00 ITC-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OIC-02 NEA-10 EA-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 /093 W

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R 291742Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ICO

SUBJECT: COFFEE - MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. SUMMARY. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION (ICO), MET SEPTEMBER 27. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON WHETHER COFFEE TRADED AMONG EXPORTING MEMBERS WOULD COUNT TOWARD THEIR BASIC EXPORT QUOTA. END SUMMARY

2. AT ITS SEPTEMBER 27 MEETING THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CONSIDERED, INTER ALIA, THE QUESTION WHETHER COFFEE
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SHIPPED BETWEEN EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL COUNT TOWARD

THE EXPORT PERFORMANCE OF THE SELLING COUNTRY IN CALCULATING ITS BASIC EXPORT QUOTA. THIS CAME UP IN RELATION TO THE RULES FOR THE TRACKING SYSTEM FOR COFFEE WHEN QUOTAS ARE NOT IN EFFECT.

3. THE U.S. REP SPARKED THE DEBATE BY WITHDRAWING RESERVATIONS RAISED AT THE LAST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON THE DRAFT RULES OF THE TRACKING SYSTEM. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THESE RULES AS WELL AS ARTICLE 30 OF THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT 1976 MAKE CLEAR THAT ONLY EXPORTS FROM EXPORTING MEMBERS TO IMPORTING MEMBERS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR CALCULATING THE BASIC QUOTAS.

4. EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA AND OAMCAF QUESTIONED THIS INTERPRETATION, CLAIMING THAT ANY COFFEE SHIPPED TO ANOTHER EXPORTING COUNTRY, PROCESSED, AND REEXPORTED TO AN IMPORTING MEMBER WILL COUNT TOWARD THE QUOTA SO LONG AS THE SHIPMENT CAN BE VERIFIED BY A VALID CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN. NEITHER BRAZIL NOR COLUMBIA SPOKE.

5. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERVENED TO EXPLAIN THE PROCEDURE FOR MONITORING EXPORTS, INDICATING AS THE RULES NOW STAND, EXPORTS TO OTHER PRODUCERS COULD ONLY BE COUNTED IF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WERE TO APPROVE SPECIFIC CASES.

6. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE U.S. POSITION HAS THE FULL BACKING OF OTHER CONSUMERS AND IS TACITLY ACCEPTED BY MANY PRODUCERS.

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